

General Physical Activities Defined by Level of Intensity

The following is in accordance with CDC and ACSM guidelines.

Light activity⁺ Less than 3.0 METs* (less than 3.5 kcal/min)	Moderate activity⁺ 3.0 to 6.0 METs* (3.5 to 7 kcal/min)	Vigorous activity⁺ Greater than 6.0 METs* (more than 7 kcal/min)
Walking casually, less than 3 miles per hour (mph) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking in the house or yard Window shopping, strolling and stopping frequently Casual walking, sauntering, strolling, purposeless wandering 	Walking at a moderate or brisk pace of 3 to 4.5 mph on a level surface inside or outside, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking to class, work, or the store; Walking for pleasure; Walking the dog; or Walking as a break from work. Walking downstairs or down a hill Racewalking—less than 5 mph Using crutches Hiking Roller skating or in-line skating at a leisurely pace	Racewalking and aerobic walking—5 mph or faster Jogging or running Wheeling your wheelchair Walking and climbing briskly up a hill Backpacking Mountain climbing, rock climbing, rapelling Roller skating or in-line skating at a brisk pace
Bicycling less than 5 mph Stationary bicycling—using very light effort	Bicycling 5 to 9 mph, level terrain, or with few hills Stationary bicycling—using moderate effort	Bicycling more than 10 mph or bicycling on steep uphill terrain Stationary bicycling—using vigorous effort
Aerobic dancing—stretching and slow warm-up period	Aerobic dancing—high impact Water aerobics	Aerobic dancing—high impact Step aerobics Water jogging Teaching an aerobic dance class
Sitting in the whirlpool or sauna Stretching exercises—slow warm-up	Calisthenics—light Yoga Gymnastics General home exercises, light or moderate effort, getting up and down from the floor Jumping on a trampoline Using a stair climber machine at a light-to-moderate pace Using a rowing machine—with moderate effort	Calisthenics—push-ups, pull-ups, vigorous effort Karate, judo, tae kwon do, jujitsu Jumping rope Performing jumping jacks Using a stair climber machine at a fast pace Using a rowing machine—with vigorous effort Using an arm cycling machine—with vigorous effort
Weight training—light workout using free weights, Nautilus- or Universal-type weights	Weight training and bodybuilding using free weights, Nautilus- or Universal-type weights	Circuit weight training
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Ballroom dancing—very slowly	Ballroom dancing Line dancing	Professional ballroom dancing—energetically Square dancing—energetically

	Square dancing Folk dancing Modern dancing, disco Ballet	Folk dancing—energetically Clogging
Table tennis or Ping-Pong—leisurely	Table tennis—competitive Tennis—doubles	Tennis—singles Wheelchair tennis
Golf—riding a powered golf cart Golf—driving range Playing miniature golf	Golf, wheeling or carrying clubs	----
Playing catch—football or baseball Throwing a baseball	Softball—fast pitch or slow pitch Basketball—shooting baskets Coaching children's or adults' sports	Most competitive sports Football game Basketball game Wheelchair basketball Soccer Rugby Kickball Field or rollerblade hockey Lacrosse
Volleyball—recreational	Volleyball—competitive	Beach volleyball—on sand court
Throwing a Frisbee Bowling Croquet Shuffleboard Horseshoes Pistol or rifle target practice Darts Billiards	Playing Frisbee Juggling Curling Cricket—batting and bowling Badminton Archery (nonhunting) Fencing	Handball—general or team Racquetball Squash
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Swimming—floating	Swimming—recreational Treading water—slowly, moderate effort Diving—springboard or platform Aquatic aerobics Waterskiing Snorkeling Surfing, board or body	Swimming—steady paced laps Synchronized swimming Treading water—fast, vigorous effort Water jogging Water polo Water basketball Scuba diving
Boating—powerboat Yachting	Canoeing or rowing a boat at less than 4 mph Rafting—whitewater Sailing—recreational or competition Paddle boating	Canoeing or rowing—4 or more mph Kayaking in whitewater rapids

	Kayaking—on a lake, calm water Washing or waxing a powerboat or the hull of a sailboat	
Fishing, seated in a boat or while standing along a riverbank	Fishing while walking along a riverbank or while wading in a stream—wearing waders	----
Hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow—stationary Pistol shooting or trapshooting—standing	Hunting deer, large or small game Pheasant and grouse hunting Hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow—walking	----
Horseback riding—walking	Horseback riding—general Saddling or grooming a horse	Horsebackriding—trotting, galloping, jumping, or in competition Playing polo
Sitting and playing a board game or video game Sitting while reading, writing, coloring, painting, using a computer	Playing on school playground equipment, moving about, swinging, or climbing Playing hopscotch, 4-square, dodgeball, T-ball, or tetherball Skateboarding Roller-skating or in-line skating—leisurely pace	Running Skipping Jumping rope Performing jumping jacks Roller-skating or in-line skating—fast pace
Sitting and playing most musical instruments	Playing instruments while actively moving; playing in a marching band; playing guitar or drums in a rock band Twirling a baton in a marching band Singing while actively moving about—as on stage or in church	Playing a heavy musical instrument while actively running in a marching band
Gardening and yard work: pruning, weeding while sitting or kneeling, or slowly walking and seeding a lawn Using a riding mower or driving a tractor on firm ground	Gardening and yard work: raking the lawn, bagging grass or leaves, digging, hoeing, light shoveling (less than 10 lbs per minute), or weeding while standing or bending Planting trees, trimming shrubs and trees, hauling branches, stacking wood Pushing a power lawn mower or tiller	Gardening and yard work: heavy or rapid shoveling (more than 10 lbs per minute), digging ditches, or carrying heavy loads Felling trees, carrying large logs, swinging an ax, hand-splitting logs, or climbing and trimming trees Pushing a nonmotorized lawn mower
Using a snowblower	Shoveling light snow	Shoveling heavy snow
Light housework: dusting, vacuuming, sweeping floors, straightening, making beds, cooking or serving food, washing dishes, folding and putting away laundry, sewing, or carrying out light bags of trash Most other household tasks done while sitting or standing	Moderate housework: scrubbing the floor or bathtub while on hands and knees, hanging laundry on a clothesline, sweeping an outdoor area, cleaning out the garage, washing windows, moving light furniture, packing or unpacking boxes, walking and putting household items away, carrying out heavy bags of trash or recyclables (e.g., glass, newspapers, and plastics), or carrying water or firewood General household tasks requiring considerable effort	Heavy housework: moving or pushing heavy furniture (75 lbs or more), carrying household items weighing 25 lbs or more up a flight or stairs, or shoveling coal into a stove Standing, walking, or walking down a flight of stairs while carrying objects weighing 50 lbs or more

Putting groceries away—generally Stocking shelves with food	Putting groceries away—walking and carrying especially large or heavy items less than 50 lbs.	Carrying several heavy bags (25 lbs or more) of groceries at one time up a flight of stairs Grocery shopping while carrying young children <i>and</i> pushing a full grocery cart, or pushing two full grocery carts at once
Sitting and playing with children Child care: dressing, bathing, feeding, or occasionally lifting young children	Actively playing with children—walking, running, or climbing while playing with children Walking while carrying a child weighing less than 50 lbs Walking while pushing or pulling a child in a stroller or an adult in a wheelchair Carrying a child weighing less than 25 lbs up a flight of stairs Child care: handling uncooperative young children (e.g., chasing, dressing, lifting into car seat), or handling several young children at one time Bathing and dressing an adult	Vigorously playing with children—running longer distances or playing strenuous games with children Racewalking or jogging while pushing a stroller designed for sport use Carrying an adult or a child weighing 25 lbs or more up a flight of stairs Standing or walking while carrying an adult or a child weighing 50 lbs or more
Animal care: feeding domestic animals or sitting and caring for animals	Animal care: shoveling grain, feeding farm animals, or grooming animals Playing with or training animals Manually milking cows or hooking cows up to milking machines	Animal care: forking bales of hay or straw, cleaning a barn or stables, or carrying animals weighing over 50 lbs Handling or carrying heavy animal-related equipment or tack
Light home repair: wiring, plumbing, or repairing appliances	Home repair: cleaning gutters, caulking, refinishing furniture, sanding floors with a power sander, or laying or removing carpet or tiles General home construction work: roofing, painting inside or outside of the house, wall papering, scraping, plastering, or remodeling	Home repair or construction: very hard physical labor, standing or walking while carrying heavy loads of 50 lbs or more, taking loads of 25 lbs or more up a flight of stairs or ladder (e.g., carrying roofing materials onto the roof), or concrete or masonry work
Workshop carpentry	Outdoor carpentry, sawing wood with a power saw	Hand-sawing hardwoods
Light automobile repair Motorcycle or bicycle repair	Automobile bodywork Hand washing and waxing a car	Pushing a disabled car
~Occupations that require extended periods of sitting or standing. Tasks frequently requiring movement of little more than hands and fingers. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office work: sitting in meetings or classes, laboratory work, computer terminal work, or standing while sorting or using light office equipment (e.g., photocopying and 	~Occupations that require extended periods of walking, pushing or pulling objects weighing less than 75 lbs, standing while lifting objects weighing less than 50 lbs, or carrying objects of less than 25 lbs up a flight of stairs Tasks frequently requiring moderate effort and considerable use of arms, legs, or occasional total body movements. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briskly walking on a level surface while 	~Occupations that require extensive periods of running, rapid movement, pushing or pulling objects weighing 75 lbs or more, standing while lifting heavy objects of 50 lbs or more, walking while carrying heavy objects of 25 lbs or more Tasks frequently requiring strenuous effort and extensive total body movements. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running up a flight of stairs while

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> telefaxing) • Sales—while sitting or standing • Driving a car, light truck, train, airplane, or heavy equipment that is fully automated with a smooth ride • Operating most machinery from a sitting or standing position (e.g., forklift or crane operation) • Appliance or automotive repair—light • Most light-to-moderate assembly-line work—working with hands • Directing traffic • Patient care and nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carrying a suitcase or load weighing up to 50 lbs • Maid service or cleaning services • Waiting tables or institutional dishwashing • Driving or maneuvering heavy vehicles (e.g., semi-truck, school bus, tractor, or harvester)—not fully automated and requiring extensive use of arms and legs • Operating heavy power tools (e.g., drills and jackhammers) • Many homebuilding tasks (e.g. electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, dry wall, and painting) • Farming—feeding and grooming animals, milking cows, shoveling grain; picking fruit from trees, or picking vegetables • Packing boxes for shipping or moving • Assembly-line work—tasks requiring movement of the entire body, arms or legs with moderate effort • Mail carriers—walking while carrying a mailbag • Patient care—bathing, dressing, and moving patients or physical therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carrying a suitcase or load weighing 25 lbs or more • Teaching a class or skill requiring active and strenuous participation, such as aerobics or physical education instructor • Firefighting • Masonry and heavy construction work • Coal mining • Manually shoveling or digging ditches • Using heavy nonpowered tools • Most forestry work • Farming—forking straw, baling hay, cleaning barn, or poultry work • Moving items professionally • Loading and unloading a truck
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Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity. *Promoting physical activity: a guide for community action*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1999. (Table adapted from Ainsworth BE, Haskell WL, Leon AS, et al. Compendium of physical activities: classification of energy costs of human physical activities. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* 1993;25(1):71-80. Adapted with technical assistance from Dr. Barbara Ainsworth.)

* The ratio of exercise metabolic rate. One MET is defined as the energy expenditure for sitting quietly, which, for the average adult, approximates 3.5 ml of oxygen uptake per kilogram of body weight per minute (1.2 kcal/min for a 70-kg individual). For example, a 2-MET activity requires two times the metabolic energy expenditure of sitting quietly.

+ For an average person, defined here as 70 kilograms or 154 pounds. The activity intensity levels portrayed in this chart are most applicable to men aged 30 to 50 years and women aged 20 to 40 years. For older individuals, the classification of activity intensity might be higher. For example, what is moderate intensity to a 40-year-old man might be vigorous for a man in his 70s. Intensity is a subjective classification.

Data for this chart were available only for adults. Therefore, when children's games are listed, the estimated intensity level is for adults participating in children's activities.

To compute the amount of time needed to accumulate 150 kcal, do the following calculation: 150 kcal divided by the MET level of the activity equals the minutes needed to expend 150 kcal. For example: $150 \div 3 \text{ METS} = 50$ minutes of participation. Generally, activities in the moderate-intensity range require 25-50 minutes to expend a moderate amount of activity, and activities in the vigorous-intensity range would require less than 25 minutes to achieve a moderate amount of activity. Each activity listed is categorized as light, moderate, or vigorous on the basis of current knowledge of the overall level of intensity required for the average person to engage in it, taking into account brief periods when the level of intensity required for the activity might increase or decrease considerably.

Persons with disabilities, including motor function limitations (e.g., quadriplegia) may wish to consult with an exercise physiologist or physical therapist to properly classify the types of physical activities in which they might participate, including assisted exercise. Certain activities classified in this listing as moderate might be vigorous for persons who must overcome physical challenges or disabilities.

~Note: Almost every occupation requires some mix of light, moderate, or vigorous activities, depending on the task at hand. To categorize the activity level of your own position, ask yourself: How many minutes each working day do I spend doing the types of activities described as light, moderate, or vigorous? To arrive at a total workday caloric expenditure, multiply the minutes spent doing activities within each intensity level by the kilocalories corresponding to each level of intensity. Then, add together the total kilocalories spent doing light, moderate, and vigorous activities to arrive at your total energy expenditure in a typical day.